



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Audio comments from today's news conference and court documents related to this case can be downloaded from the district's Web site at [www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)*

## **COLUMBIA WOMAN INDICTED FOR PURCHASING RICHARD EVANS A FIREARM**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Columbia, Mo., woman was indicted by a federal grand jury for illegally purchasing a firearm for her former boyfriend, Richard T. Evans, who committed suicide as he was being sought by law enforcement officers in connection with the shooting death of a Columbia, Mo., police officer.

**Christinia R. Lowe**, 24, of Columbia, was charged in a sealed indictment returned by a federal grand jury on March 11, 2005, in Jefferson City, Mo. The indictment was unsealed and made public upon **Lowe's** arrest and first appearance in court this morning.

The federal indictment alleges that **Lowe** made a false statement, namely that a gun she purchased on May 27, 2003, from the Second Amendment Gun Shop, located in Columbia, was for her when it was actually for Evans.

According to the indictment, **Lowe** falsely represented on a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Form 4473 that she was the actual buyer of a firearm. In reality, the indictment alleges, she was purchasing the firearm for Evans, who at the time was her boyfriend.

Evans shot himself in the head on Jan. 11, 2005, as he was being sought by Columbia Police in connection with the shooting of Officer Molly Bowden on Jan. 10, 2005.

"The firearm named in this indictment is not the firearm used in the shooting death of Officer Bowden," Graves said. "That separate firearm and incident is still being investigated. However, during the course of that investigation, law enforcement officers discovered that **Lowe**

assisted her boyfriend in acquiring another firearm, which is, in itself, an illegal activity.”

“Understandably, this community is still in a state of shock over the death of Officer Bowden and my sympathies go out to her family, friends, colleagues and fellow officers,” Graves said.

“Prior to asking Ms. Lowe to purchase a firearm for him, Evans had previously been refused the purchase of a firearm under his own name because of his history,” Graves said. “This case clearly illustrates the danger of straw purchasers who buy guns for those who are prohibited from buying them for themselves.”

“These types of prosecutions are a top priority for the Department of Justice for reasons I’m sure all of you can understand,” Graves said. “I want to recognize the hard work that all involved agencies put into this case. Their dedication and cooperative efforts are the reason our office is able to move forward with this prosecution.”

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the indictment is simply an accusation, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony P. Gonzalez. The case was investigated by the Columbia, Mo., Police Department, the Boone County, Mo., Sheriff’s Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the University of Missouri-Columbia Police Department and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)